

# RainScapes Rewards!

**For your yard...  
your watershed...  
your community**



## **2008 RainScapes Natural Drainage Project Rebate Application**



## **RainScapes Natural Drainage Project Grant Application**

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection RainScapes Program is seeking residential, commercial and private institutional property owners to improve stormwater runoff conditions on their property by installing more natural drainage projects. These projects are designed to slow rainwater runoff and reduce the amount of stormwater entering local streams, increase groundwater supply, and reduce chemical and nutrient pollutants entering waterways. Other environmental benefits of these projects include reduced energy consumption and air pollution from lawn mowers, reduced water use for irrigation during droughts, and increased biodiversity in the suburban landscape. Importantly, these unique landscaping enhancements can ultimately add value to the property.

### **About the Program**

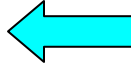
The RainScapes Rewards rebate program is effective beginning January 1, 2008. Projects that have been completed prior to January 1, 2008 are not eligible. Financial rewards will be granted for the **installation of rain gardens, rain barrels, the replacement of turf grass with conservation landscaping utilizing native plants, the replacement of existing impervious cover with permeable pavers, the creation of new tree canopy, and green roofs.**

Single family residential property owners are offered a financial reward of a maximum of \$1,200 per residential lot, dependent on project type and actual costs. Multi-family, commercial, and private institutional land owners are offered a financial reward of \$.46 cents per square foot of impervious area treated, with a maximum of \$5,000 per property. The reward amount is established by project type, as described in the project application, and excludes taxes. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as funds are limited. RainScapes Rewards rebates will be processed until funds are depleted.

### **Who Is Eligible**

- To participate, your property must be located in Montgomery County, outside of the municipal limits of the City of Rockville, City of Takoma Park, or City of Gaithersburg.
- Projects are **not** eligible if they are associated with permit approval requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- All requirements as outlined below, in the application, and in the *Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility* (attached) must be met. All decisions are final and are at the sole discretion of the Department of Environmental Protection.

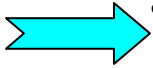
### **Requirements**

- Follow the three steps listed below. Only complete applications submitted with all required information will be processed.
- **A signed RainScapes Rewards Property Owner Agreement is required.**
- A preliminary site inspection to confirm eligibility is required **before you begin.** 
- Applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits.
- When the RainScapes landscape renovation project is completed, a final inspection is required

- Prior to final inspection, all itemized receipts, installation/contractor bills, etcetera, covering all project costs, must be submitted to receive the rebate. Documented project costs must equal or exceed the rebate amount requested.
- A social security number or taxpayer ID is required to process the rebate payment through the County Government financial system. This is protected information deemed confidential.
- Projects must be installed within six months of the preliminary inspection date.
- The applicant must agree to participate in public outreach activities associated with the RainScapes project, including allowing DEP to place signage, take and use photos, and completing a follow-up evaluation. Please see application and note at the bottom of this page for information about project tours.

### **STEP ONE – The Application**

- Complete and sign the application form.
- Compile all necessary documentation outlined in the application.
- Be sure that you have the latest version of the *Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility*
- Take a “before” photo of the proposed project area (up to six photos may be submitted).
- Submit the application, photos, and required documentation.
- **Wait to receive application approval from the Department of Environmental Protection before beginning the project (Allow three weeks for processing).**



### **STEP TWO – Before You Begin the Project**

When your application has been approved:

- You will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection and the preliminary site inspection will be scheduled (optional for rain barrels).
- For rain gardens, turf conversions, permeable paver retrofit projects, and tree plantings, you must contact MISS UTILITY and have the project area marked prior to site inspection.
- Upon verification of eligibility, you may begin your project.

### **STEP THREE – After You Finish the Project**

- Call or email the Department of Environmental Protection RainScapes Coordinator to schedule a final inspection. Inspections will generally be scheduled within 10 business days.
- At the final inspection, correct installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
- **Itemized receipts and/or final invoice for all project costs are required.** Photocopies are acceptable.
- If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the County Department of Finance within three to six weeks.

### **NOTE about Project Tours**

The application includes a question about voluntary participation in tours of the RainScape projects conducted by DEP. Project tours will help DEP educate others about the benefits and beauty of these projects, and we ask that RainScapes Rewards project participants agree to allow reasonable access to the project site for periodic tours organized by the County. The County will provide notice of at least five (5) business days before undertaking any project tour. A County employee will be present at all times during the tours and tour participants will be required to execute a waiver releasing the property owner from any liability for damages or injuries resulting from the tours.





**THANK YOU for your interest and participation in the  
RainScapes Program!**





## Rebate Application – Rain Garden

Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Building Type: ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Rebate: \$1,200 residential; \$5,000 commercial, multi-family, institutional

**Physical Description of Location of Rain Garden (e.g., back of house on the right, front of house on left side of driveway, etc.)**

Distance from building and/or driveway/road:

**Size and Dimensions of Rain Garden**

Size (sq.ft.):

Dimensions:

Drainage Test Pit: Yes \_\_\_\_ time to drain: \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_ Why?

**Drainage Area to Rain Garden**

Total Drainage Area (sq.ft.):

Offsite Drainage to Project (sq.ft.):

Square Feet and % of Residential Paved Area  
(sidewalk, driveway, patio, etc.):

Square Feet and % of Grass:

Square Feet and % of Rooftop:

Square Feet and % of Roadway:

**Materials Quantities (please attach a detailed planting plan)**

Soil Mix and Provider:

Mulch:

# of plants by size and type: Trees  Shrubs  Herbaceous	Other: (stone, underdrain, pipe, etc.)
<b>Project Cost</b>	
Please estimate your rain garden costs, including soil mix and mulch (itemized receipts are required upon project completion). If you are using a contractor, include project bid/estimate.	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
<b>Installation: _____ do it yourself; _____ contractor; _____ watershed group</b>	
If you are using a contractor or watershed group, please provide the following information:	
Name of Contractor/Group:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
<b>Project Site Photos (Before Shots)</b>	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
<b>I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _____ Yes _____ No</b>	

**I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.**

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program  
255 Rockville Pike, suite 120  
Rockville, MD 20855**

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Rowe:

Phone: 240-777-7714 E-mail: [pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov)



## Rebate Application – Rain Barrel

Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Building Type: ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Rebate: \$50 per barrel, max 4 barrels per household

### Physical Description of Location of Rain Barrel (e.g., back of house on the right, front of house on left, etc.)

### Size (gal) and Make of Rain Barrel

Size:

Brand/Make:

Where will you obtain your rain barrel?

### Roof Drainage Area to Rain Barrel

Drainage Area Going to Barrel (sq.ft.):

% of Building's Roof (e.g. 1/4, 1/2...):

### Drainage Issues

Does your house have a basement and/or a sump pump?

If so, have you ever experienced basement flooding, or does your pump run regularly?

### Rain Barrel Hook Up

Is this a stand alone barrel, or will there be multiple barrels hooked up?

Where does your roof leader currently drain?

Onto the grass \_\_\_\_\_

Onto the driveway \_\_\_\_\_

Underground and piped to street \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know \_\_\_\_\_

What type and brand of diverter will be used?	Who will be hooking up the barrel?
<b>Rain Barrel Survey link: <a href="http://www.rainscapes.org/">www.rainscapes.org/</a></b>	
I have completed the on-line rain barrel survey:	
Yes_____ Date:	No_____ Why?
Note – you must complete the survey in order to receive the rain barrel rebate! To receive a hard copy of the survey, please use the contact information at the end of this application.	
<b>Project Cost</b>	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
<b>Contractor/Installer (if applicable)</b>	
Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
<b>Project Site Photos (Before Shots)</b>	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
<b>I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _ _____ Yes _____ No</b>	

**I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.**

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

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## Rebate Application – Green Roof



Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Property Type: ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Rebate: \$1,200 residential; \$5,000 commercial, multi-family, institutional

### Physical Description of Location of Green Roof, Description of Project Goals, Sequence of Construction, Access for Maintenance, Sun Exposure, etc.

Add separate sheets if necessary

### Size (sq.ft.) and Dimensions of Green Roof

Size:

Dimensions:

Planting Depth:

Slope:

### Green Roof Installation

Make/Manufacturer of Green Roof System/Components:

Type of System (e.g. integral, modular, etc.)

Please attach a detailed plant list including species, spacing, sizing and plant density.

### Size and Condition of Existing Roof

Total Roof Area:

Year Built:

Please provide a description of what you have done to be certain that your roof can support the added weight of the green roof (attach structural analysis report):

### **Project Cost**

A detailed budget must be submitted, on separate page, for the entire green roof project, based on actual cost estimates from contractors and/or product suppliers.

Total Cost:

Amount of Rebate Requested:

### **Contractor/Installer**

Application must include evidence of contractor qualifications to install green roofs, such as references or industry standard training certification (minimum of two classes from Green Roofs for Healthy Cities).

Name:

Address:

Contractor/Installer Signature:

Phone:

Date:

### **Project Site Photos (Before Shots)**

Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)

**I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. \_ Yes \_ No**

**I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.**

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

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## Rebate Application – Permeable Paver Retrofit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Property Owner (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address (if not same as above)

Property Type: ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Rebate: \$1,200 residential; \$5,000 commercial, multi-family, institutional

### Physical Description Permeable Paver Project Location, Description of Project Goals, Sequence of Construction, Access for Maintenance

Add separate sheets if necessary

### Size and Dimensions of Paved Area to be Converted to Permeable Pavers

Size (sq. ft.):

Dimensions:

Percentage of Total Existing Paved Area:

### Permeable Paver Installation Plan

What guidance documents or resources are you using to plan your project?

Who will be installing the permeable pavers?

How will the existing pavement be disposed?	What is the make/manufacturer of the paver system?
<b>Project Cost</b>	
A detailed budget must be submitted, on separate page, for the entire permeable paver project, based on actual cost estimates from contractors and/or product suppliers.	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
<b>Contractor/Installer</b>	
Application must include evidence of contractor qualifications to install permeable paver systems, such as references or industry standard training certification (ICPI, etc.).	
Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
<b>Project Site Photos (Before Shots)</b>	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
<b>I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _ _ _ _ _ Yes _ _ _ _ _ No</b>	

**I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

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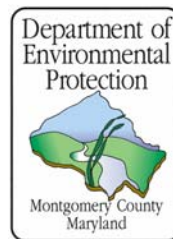
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## Rebate Application – Tree Canopy



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Property Owner (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address (if not same as above)

Property Type: ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Rebate: \$200 per lot

NOTE: Trees must be planted between September 15<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>

### Physical Description of Location of New Shade Tree(s), Description of Project Goals, Sequence of Construction, Access for Maintenance, Sun Exposure, etc.

Use sketch if desired; add separate sheet if necessary; don't forget to check for overhead wires or obstructions where you want to plant your tree(s).

### Tree Information

What species of tree(s) will you be planting?

Where will you obtain the tree(s)?

What is the size of the tree(s)?

Pot size:

Height:

Who will be planting the tree(s)?

Caliper size:	
<b>Project Cost</b>	
Please estimate your tree planting costs, including mulch and any other supplies needed (itemized receipts are required upon project completion):	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
<b>Installation: _____ do it yourself; _____ contractor; _____ watershed group</b>	
If you are using a contractor or watershed group, please provide the following information:	
Contractor/Group Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone
	Date:
<b>Project Site Photos (Before Shots)</b>	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
<b>I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _ _____ Yes; _____ No</b>	

**I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

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## Rebate Application – Conservation Landscaping

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Property Owner (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address (if not same as above)

Property Type: ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Rebate: \$500 residential; \$5,000 commercial, multi-family, institutional (calculated at 25% of total costs excluding taxes)

### Physical Description Turf Removal Project Location, Description of Project Goals, Sequence of Construction, Access for Maintenance, Sun Exposure, etc.

Add separate sheets if necessary

### Size and Dimensions of Turf Area to be Converted

Size (sq. ft.):

Dimensions:

Percentage of Total Existing Turf Area:

### Planting Plan

Where will you obtain your plants?

Who will be installing your landscape?

Please attach a detailed plant list including species, spacing, sizes and plant density

What guidance documents or resources are you using to plan your landscape?	How will you dispose of the removed turf?
<b>Project Cost</b>	
Please estimate your conservation landscaping costs, including mulch and any other supplies needed (itemized receipts are required upon project completion):	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
<b>Installation ___ do it yourself; ___ contractor; ___ watershed group</b>	
If you are using a contractor or watershed group, please provide the following information:	
Contractor/Group Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
<b>Project Site Photos (Before Shots)</b>	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
<b>I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _ Yes; _ No</b>	

**I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.**

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

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## Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility

### Issue Date 2/21/08

\*\*\* These guidelines and criteria will be periodically updated to ensure currency with the latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version! \*\*\*

#### **Rain Barrels and Cisterns**

- Minimum Size: 55 gals
- Rain Barrels must include:
  - Secure lid and screen for safety and mosquito control
  - Overflow drainage outlet
  - Water access tap
  - Positive drainage away from foundation
  - Solid, level support base
- For a good resource, visit: [http://www.mapc.org/regional\\_planning/LID/cisterns\\_barrels.html](http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/LID/cisterns_barrels.html)

#### **Rain Gardens**

(a detailed rain garden installation manual will be developed, these are basic guidelines)

- Only gardens outside of the public right of way will be considered at this time
- Rain gardens shall be located a minimum of 10' from buildings, located downgradient of nearby foundations, and oriented perpendicular to the direction of flow in such a way as to intercept the surface water flowpath
- At least 75% of the plants must be native to the ecoregion (or cultivars), based on information provided in:
  - 'Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Maryland Piedmont Region'. US Fish and Wildlife Service. May 2001.  
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/nativesMD/info.htm>
  - 'Native Plants for Central Maryland Landscapes, Piedmont and Inner Coastal Plain'. Maryland Native Plant Society. May 1999.  
<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/natplantsframe.html>
- Rain gardens should be designed to treat the 1-YR, 24hr storm depth for the area draining to the rain garden. Other rainfall depths will be considered, based on location, soil permeability, and design factors, with no less than 1.25" rainfall depth as a treatment target
- Must be at least 2 ½ ft. deep, with a flat bottom
- Soil mix must conform to MCDPS bioretention specs, or the following locally available mix:
  - 50% sand, 25% organic (Leafgro), 25% topsoil
- Cover soil surface with hardwood shredded mulch
- The bottom of the rain garden must not be compacted during installation – hand equipment, or light-weight machinery shall be used, and the bottom broken up with a rototiller or pick prior to adding soil mix
- No plugs may be used, plant stock should be minimum quart size, gallon size recommended; planting densities typically should be 1 plant per 1 to 2 square feet (dependent on species)

- A test pit is required to evaluate adequate drainage
  - Conduct the drainage test:
    - Dig a hole at least 2 ft. deep in the location you plan for the rain garden, about a foot or so wide
    - Fill the hole with water and monitor the time it takes to drain
    - If the hole does not drain completely within 24 to 36 hours, you will need to identify a different location or modify the rain garden to improve drainage. Discuss the options with DEP staff or a qualified contractor

## **Green Roofs**

- Only extensive green roof types will be considered at this time
- Green roofs must be designed and installed by a qualified, certified contractor.
- Minimum green roof area: 350 sq. ft. OR at least ¼ of roof area
- Green roof must be replacing an existing roof area; rebate will not be granted for expansion of roof footprint
- Roof must be designed with a minimum 4” planting matrix depth and with adequate storage volume to retain a 1-YR 24hr storm event volume
- DEP may request a runoff calculation report for the proposed green roof design.
- For a good resource, visit: [http://www.mapc.org/regional\\_planning/LID/green\\_roofs.html](http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/LID/green_roofs.html)

## **Permeable Pavers**

- Minimum project size: 150 sq.ft. residential; 450 sq.ft. for commercial, multi-family, institutional
- Permeable paver installations must be designed and installed by a qualified, certified contractor.
- Projects must be designed for infiltration purposes, in accordance with industry standards, including a runoff storage reservoir of uniformly graded crushed stone, designed to store the 1-YR 24hr storm event volume. Stone dust is not acceptable.
- DEP may request a soil permeability test.
- Permeable paver retrofit projects are suitable for single family residential driveways, patios, sidewalks and walkways, golf cart paths, fire and emergency access lanes, parking lot spaces and secondary aisles, and overflow parking areas. In general, they should not be used in high traffic areas, primary parking lot aisles or in any area subject to use by heavy vehicles or other equipment.
- For a good resource, visit: [http://www.mapc.org/regional\\_planning/LID/permeable\\_paving.html](http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/LID/permeable_paving.html) and [http://www.njstormwater.org/tier\\_A/pdf/NJ\\_SWBMP\\_9.7.pdf](http://www.njstormwater.org/tier_A/pdf/NJ_SWBMP_9.7.pdf)

## **Shade Tree**

- Locational Priorities:

- Eligibility for Shade Tree planting rebates is targeted to the following areas:
  - The following watersheds targeted through DEPs restoration programs: Rock Creek, Little Falls, the Anacostia, Cabin John, Watts Branch, Muddy Branch, Patuxent
- Trees must be planted on private property, not within the public right-of-way. Other programs exist to address this need.
- Plant tree at least 15' to 20' away from structures
- Priority will be given to trees planted to address the following conditions:
  - Lots that lack adequate canopy
  - Shading of existing impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, roads and roofs
  - Erosion control
  - Afternoon shade of building exposures and A/C units
  - Northwesterly wind blocks
- Tree must be not smaller than:
  - A #7 pot
  - 8' to 12' tall
  - minimum 1" caliper
- The following species will be considered at this time (DEP approval may be requested for others):
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Willow Oak</li> <li>○ Swamp White Oak</li> <li>○ Northern Red Oak</li> <li>○ Scarlet Oak</li> <li>○ Black Oak</li> <li>○ Shingle Oak</li> <li>○ Little Leaf Linden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sugar Maple</li> <li>○ Silver Maple</li> <li>○ Black Gum</li> <li>○ Hickories (Mockernut, Pignut)</li> <li>○ Horse Chestnut</li> <li>○ Kentucky Coffee Tree</li> </ul>
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- Put 3" to 4" of mulch around tree, extending at least 2' from trunk, preferably to the dripline
- No weed whacking around trees
- Tree must be tarped (covered) for transportation
- In deer-prone areas, tree-wrap must be used for deer protection (from rubbing of stem)
- Planting Specifications:
  - **Trees must be planted between September 15<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - Ask your nurseryman/landscaper for advice on the best tree for your site
  - Use planting instructions per nursery guarantee/warranty

### **Conservation Landscaping**

(a detailed conservation landscaping specification is being developed; these are basic guidelines)

- For residential properties, established turf area to be converted must be at least 500 sq. ft.
- For commercial properties, established turf area to be converted must be at least 1,000 sq.ft. AND at least a third of the existing turf area.
- No plastic sheeting (impermeable weed barrier) will be permitted in a turf conversion area.
- A planting plan is required. At least ¾ of the plants must be native plants to this ecoregion or cultivars (see sources under Rain Gardens).

- A mulch layer is required to inhibit weed growth, prevent soil loss, and retain moisture.
- Planting plan must include, at a minimum, information on plant species, container size, number of plants and planting densities, plant material source, soil amendments to be used, and maintenance plan.
- For a good resource, visit: <http://www.envirolandscaping.org/howto.htm>